



## COMMONWEALTH of VIRGINIA

DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL SERVICES

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- *Interview with Governor Tim Kaine, who comments on the importance of caregivers*



- *Governor Tim Kaine comments on the role volunteers play in Virginia*

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### **Caring people from Hampton Roads receive Governors awards**

*Awards presented to volunteers and caregivers*

**Virginia Beach** — Several residents of Hampton Roads have received special honors from the Governor.

The following are recipients of the 2008 **Governor's Volunteerism and Community Service Awards**:

- **Roy W. Brun, Virginia Beach:** Senior Volunteer Award. Brun serves as a volunteer for Angel Flight and as a driver transporting patients to and from medical appointments. He has also raised substantial funding for his local United Way.
- **Historic Triangle Jamestown 2007 Host Committee, Volunteer Coordination Sub-Committee, Williamsburg:** Nonprofit Group Award. The Volunteer Coordination Sub-Committee recruited, placed and trained an army of approximately 3,400 volunteers from more than 120 Virginia communities and 20 states to make America's 400<sup>th</sup> Anniversary a statewide success and a nationally and internationally recognized event.
- **People Offering Resources Together (PORT) Emergency Homeless Winter Shelter Program, Newport News:** Faith-Based Organization Award. The program provides shelter for men, women and children through 100 churches in the community, and helps the homeless gain permanent housing, identification, job skills training, and health care.

These awards highlight the efforts of outstanding citizens of the Commonwealth who seek to enhance the lives of others in their communities. The awards are presented to groups, individuals and families whose efforts exemplify extraordinary volunteer service.

"I congratulate the winning volunteers who help us move Virginia forward and improve the quality of life for all Virginians," said Governor Timothy Kaine. "When we serve our community as volunteers, our unique skills, perspectives and experience make us a stronger Commonwealth."

The following were recently presented with the **Governor's Caregiver Recognition Award**:

- **Al Pendleton of Suffolk**, caregiver to his seriously-ill wife for nearly three decades;
- **Ella Skeeter-Webster of Newport News**, caregiver for her ailing sister since 2001.

These caregivers are part of a growing trend across the country and the Commonwealth. Last year, Virginia ranked 12th in the nation in the number of family caregivers, with a total of nearly 700,000 people caring for relatives.

“The Caregiver Award symbolically thanks all of the caregivers in the Commonwealth who lovingly take care of family and friends day after day. Although the award is only given to a few caregivers, it serves as a reminder of the tremendous contributions all caregivers within Virginia make,” said Governor Kaine.

Both awards were recently presented April 23 and 24 at the annual Conference on Volunteerism and Community Service in Virginia Beach, sponsored in part by the Virginia Department of Social Services.

For more information, visit:

<http://www.dss.virginia.gov>

[http://www.dss.virginia.gov/community/council\\_women/caregiver.html](http://www.dss.virginia.gov/community/council_women/caregiver.html)

<http://www.dss.virginia.gov/family/as/caregiver.html>

<http://www.vaservice.org/>

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*Editor's note: Interviews and photos available upon request.*